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TWO GLASSES A DAY

(Republished by request.)

"Tomorrow is the twenty-fourth isn't it Mary?"

"The twenty-fourth," answered the young wife, sadly.

James Carroll knocked the ashes from his cigar, held it carefully between the thumb and forefinger or his left hand and looked thoughtfully into the fire. Mary's tired fingers showed no signs of weariness, but turned the hem of a sheet mechanically, then proceeded to baste it for sewing.

"Belle will be three years old?" he said interrogatively.

"Three, James," replied Mary without a trace of the bright smile lighting up her pretty young face. James gave a few more whiffs at his nearly consumed cigar, but did not seem to enjoy it much. A listener would have pronounced Mary a cold, unloving wife, whom the genial presence of her handsome husband, or the return of her baby's birthday, failed to please.

Lookers and listeners do not always look into the depths of the heart to see what trials and struggles are there. So in this instance. Another woman whose life is all sunshine would have pronounced Mary Carroll heartless. Poor thing! She had too much heart for this world's trials. Her wedding day was a blissful one; her husband, the ideal of manly perfection. His love, unaccompanied by wealth, was more to her than all the treasures of the earth. But a cloud arose to dim the brightness of the sky. She soon made the discovery that her husband was human; that the love of wine, and possibly something stronger, filled his heart as well as the love of his wife. He was not what the world calls an intemperate man—one glass a day does not constitute a drunkard; why should she fear?

At the end of three years he took at least two glasses a day; what had she to hope for in the years to come?

"I wish, Mary, I were able to make Belle a present every birthday in her life; but you know it is all I can do to get along as it is."

"I know it, James," meekly replied the wife.

James was ill at ease. Something in Mary's manner disturbed him.

"What makes you so solemn and quiet, Mary? Why not sympathize with me, and say you know I have a hard time, to get along, and that Belle can do without presents better than we can afford to make them?"

Fox gave me the wood bill this morning, and Jones wants to know when the grocery bill will be paid. I don't like to bother you with these things, only I want you to understand that, as much as I love our little girl, I can't afford to make her presents."

Mary's color came and went. Tears stole into her violet eyes, and her heart beat quick and fast. Her trembling fingers guided her needle unsteadily, and her stitches were long and irregular. Three long years she had brooded over her husband's weakness, without a word of reproach; and much as she dreaded to speak, she knew that her time had come.

"I wish, dear James, I could economize in something, and save money to buy our darling a present. It seems cruel to neglect her birthday so soon."

"I know nothing you could be more prudent in. Mary, and you know I am as economical as possible, don't you?"

It was very hard for the lips that praise to say no, but a strength not her own came to her aid, and with a sweet, sad smile the wife uttered her first rebuke:

"No, James, I am grieved to say that I feel that in some things you are too extravagant. It must be a sin of ignorance; for I know, if you realized it, you would never wrong your wife and child."

James started from his seat. His eyes flashed and his cheeks paled.

"For heaven's sake, Mary, are you crazy?"

"Not crazy, James, but too clear-headed for our happiness." After the shock had passed, and he was prepared to listen, she went on and in a clear, concise manner laid before him the cause of her bitter words:

"During the last year you have drunk at least two glasses of liquor a day, haven't you?"

"Why, yes, I suppose so. What of that? Only ten cents a glass; that cannot ruin a man."

"Three hundred and sixty-five days

which, multiplied by twenty cents, amounts to seventy-three dollars. Three cigars a day, which you know is below your average of smoking, will amount to as much more, which makes \$146. Fifty dollars would pay our coal and grocery bill now due, and leave a balance of ninety-six dollars for baby, you, and me. You know, too, that the time spent in drinking and smoking is worse than wasted; for tobacco and liquor poison the system, destroy the health, soften the brain, weaken the nerves, and bring ruin to thousands of happy homes. There is a lack of tenderness in your tones to Belle and me when your nerves are excited by drink. I forgive you freely, but the sting is left in my heart."

Mary's effort overcame her, and she burst into a passionate fit of weeping. The strong man trembled.

"Am I blind? Is it possible I have wronged my dearest treasures?"

They mingled their tears and talked till a late hour, laying plans for the future; and James begged forgiveness of her he had wronged.

"It is not too late to prove my love and strength," said the penitent man. And so it proved. In one year from that day two beautiful silver cups were brought home by the happy father, one for Belle's fourth birthday, the other for the wife who had saved him.

Mary's bore the inscription: "An angel saw me falling and lifted me up." Belle's was also neatly engraved: "A little child shall lead them."

Years have passed, and the happy couple, in the vigor of life, on each recurring birthday of Belle, who is now a young lady, relate to her the little trials of their married life, and the great happiness that has grown from self-denial and justice.

The good wife and mother has kept the silver bright, and at every meal these cups are on the table where James can be reminded of the promises he made and has so faithfully kept.—Lyceum Banner.

FEEDING A STEER INTO BEEF
AT 90 CENTS A POUND.

Ninety cents a pound seems a steep price to pay for beef on the hoof yet that is precisely the figure at which the champion steer of the International Live Stock Exhibition at Chicago in 1911 brought for slaughtering. The method by which a stock raiser produces beef that will bring such a price

as this is told in a bulletin just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, in which the feeding of eight of the champion steers of the last twelve years is described in detail. These eight had all been fitted and exhibited by agricultural colleges and experiment stations in Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, Indiana and Illinois.

Victor, the winner at the 1911 international, was a grade Angus, calved in January, 1908, and winner of many prizes. He was bought by the Iowa Agricultural College October 15, 1910, weighing 1100 pounds, a little light for his age. He was light in the quarters, a little down in the back and beginning to get a little rough at the tail head. He was put on a ration of boiled wheat and oats, mixed in equal parts, with a little grain, two or three pounds of roots and plenty of clover hay. This was given three times a day and the amount limited only by the appetite of the steer. To keep up circulation and appetite he was given a two-mile walk every day.

He was shipped back to Ames and roughed through the winter, and twice a day was given what he would eat up clean of equal parts of shelled corn and bran, with a little corn meal. Clover hay was supplied as roughage and three or four pounds of silage was added as an appetizer. During the day he was turned out in the field, and as soon as grass came he was put on pasture. About May 1 he weighed 1220 pounds.

On the approach of hot weather he was left in a cool, dark basement stall during the day and turned on pasture at night. About September 1 his ration was increased to three meals a day, the morning and noon meals consisting of equal parts of corn and bran. The afternoon feed was a boiled mixture of three parts oats, one part wheat and one part peas. The grain ration was increased as fast as he would clean it up, and in addition he was given about three pounds of roots. As soon as green corn was fit to feed he ate all he could clean up at one feed in the afternoon. Though he showed signs of getting patchy, the soft-boiled feed kept him in a smooth condition.

Early in October the number of feeds was increased to four a day two meals being boiled feed, and all that he would eat was fed at a time. This plan was kept up for one week before the show, when the boiled feed was taken out of the ration to guard against shrinkage in shipping and

showing. At the time of the show Victor weighed 1670 pounds, a gain of 450 pounds since May 1. He sold for ninety cents a pound and dressed 69.87 per cent of live weight.

MEERSCHAUM A ROCK.

NOT SEA FOAM.

The origin of the word "meerschaum" has been much discussed, and it is only comparatively recently that the origin of the substance was discovered. It is now known to be a disintegrated product of serpentine rock found in Asia Minor. Some believe the name to be a corruption of the word "myraen" or "myrschen," by which it is known in Asia Minor, but the Koelnische Zeitung says it is more probable that the Italians, who first introduced it into Europe, called it "schiuma del mare," sea foam, on account of its lightness and appearance, and that the Germans, who first appreciated its value as a material from which to make pipes, translated this literally into their own language.

The property of meerschaum to take on a rich brown color by soaking up the oil of tobacco was discovered by accident. It is said that a cobbler named Koneatch, who lived at Budapest in the middle of the seventeenth century, was mending a pipe for Count Andrassy when he dropped the bowl on a piece of wax he was using for waxing his thread. He wiped off the wax but later when the owner was smoking the pipe a beautiful dark spot appeared where it had been touched by the wax.

PULLS OUT SPLINTERS

WITH MAGNET.

Dr. Haab of Zurich, Switzerland, has invented an electro-magnet for the special purpose of removing iron splinters from wounds. He uses it constantly in his work as an oculist, finding it more efficacious than any of his older instruments, for it needs not to depend upon the operator's sight to find the splinter, but draws it out even when it is too small to be seen. All that is necessary is to prop open the eyelids, approach the magnet to the eye turn on the current—and the splinter is out. The same is true of iron splinters in any part of the body, though, of course in every case care must be taken to prevent the splinter from tearing the flesh as it comes forth.

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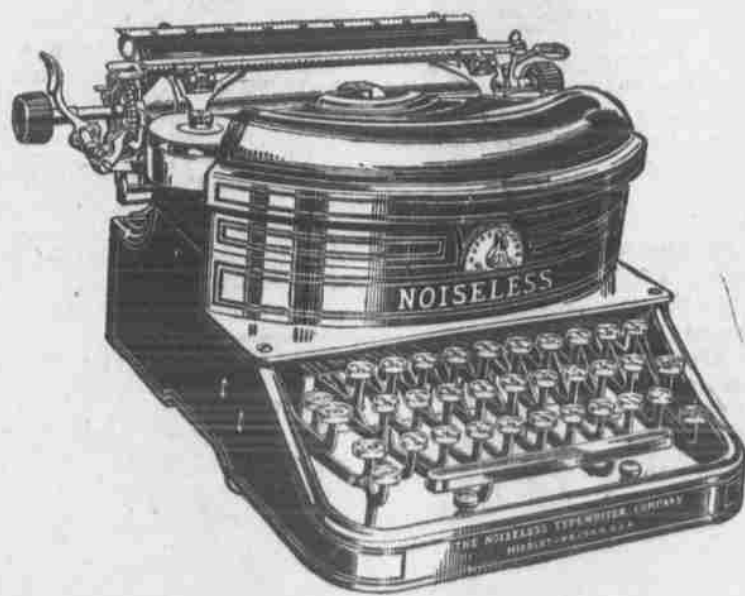
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